

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A computer related method for funding a state government procurement system comprising the acts of:

- a. providing an internet-based procurement system by a services provider for use by a state government agency for procurement of goods and services;
- b. providing an Internet portal for use by the state government agency to communicate electronically with the internet-based procurement system;
- c. providing an Internet portal for use by a qualified vendor wishing to sell goods and/or services to the state government agency[.,,];
- d. determining payment funds from the state government agency for goods and/or services provided by the vendor;
- e. sending a first portion of the payment funds to the vendor;
- f. sending a second portion of the payment funds to a reserve fund; and
- g. sending a provider payment from the reserve fund to the services provider.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 comprising an additional act of providing an Internet portal for a customer of the state government agency, whereby the customer can execute an electronic transaction, via the internet-based procurement system, with the state government agency in exchange for a fee, wherein the customer is one of the group consisting of a person seeking a driver's license, a person seeking a vehicle license, a person seeking a voter registration, a person seeking a license to practice professionally in the state, a person seeking a business registration, a person seeking a sales tax certificate, a person seeking a sales permit and a person seeking a generic state identification document.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the state government agency is able to use the internet-based procurement system to sell by auction or other methods, obsolete or excess inventory held by the state government agency to interested buyers.

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method of claim [[5]] 1, further comprising:

when an input into the reserve fund exceeds an excess-funding threshold, sending a first portion of a corresponding surplus from the reserve fund to the services provider and sending a second portion of the corresponding surplus to the state government agency; and

when an input into the reserve fund falls below an insufficient-funding threshold, carrying out an insufficient-funding revision including at least one of:

- reducing the first portion of the payment funds that are sent to the vendor and
- increasing the second portion of the payment funds that are sent to the reserve fund,
- reducing a scope of service of the internet-based procurement system, and
- sending a supplemental payment from the state government agency to the reserve fund.

Claims 7-8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A system for providing Internet-based electronic procurement services to a state government agency, comprising:

- a computer having a processor, a memory, a database, and communications connections to the Internet, the computer provided by a services provider;
- a first server mechanism coupled to the computer for providing procurement channels between buyers and sellers of goods and services;
- a second server mechanism coupled to the first server mechanism for communicating with an Internet portal in the state government agency whereby citizens and other customers of state services can communicate with a state agency; and

- a third server mechanism coupled to the computer for communicating with a qualified vendor of goods or services, wherein the computer includes executable commands for:

- determining payment funds from the state government agency for goods and/or services provided by the vendor;
 - sending a first portion of the payment funds to the vendor;
 - sending a second portion of the payment funds to a reserve fund; and
 - sending a provider payment from the reserve fund to the services provider.

Claims 10 (Previously Presented): A system for implementing a computerized eProcurement system for a state government agency, comprising:

- a server computer hosting an eProcurement system accessible via client computers to a plurality of state government agencies who comprise potential buyers of goods and/or services, said eProcurement system including a user interface (UI) comprising controls whereby a state government agency user selects criteria and a display whereby results are displayed;

- a database of information electronically coupled to the server computer concerning goods and services available from a plurality of a qualified vendors

- wherein said eProcurement system is available via the Internet to assist a state government agency buyer in locating a product or service of interest and in locating a specific qualified vendor, and the server computer includes executable instructions for:

- determining payment funds from the state government agency for goods and/or services provided by the vendor;

- sending a first portion of the payment funds to the vendor;

- sending a second portion of the payment funds to a reserve fund; and

- sending a provider payment from the reserve fund to a services provider of the eProcurement system.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 10 wherein the computerized eProcurement system for a state government agency is provided by a services provider for use by the state government agency for procurement of goods and services, where the computerized eProcurement system is funded by fees comprising payments from participating vendors,

payments by investment from the services provider, and payments by transaction fees collected from customers comprising persons seeking services from a state agency through use of the computerized eProcurement system.

Claims 12-20 (Cancelled):

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The method as claimed in~~ of claim 1, further comprising:
sending a development payment from the reserve fund to the services provider for funding development of the internet-based procurement system.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The method as claimed in~~ of claim 1, further comprising:
when an input into the reserve fund exceeds an excess-funding threshold, sending a first portion of a corresponding surplus from the reserve fund to the services provider and sending a second portion of the corresponding surplus to the state government agency.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The method as claimed in~~ of claim 1, further comprising:
when an input into the reserve fund falls below an insufficient-funding threshold, carrying out an insufficient-funding revision including at least one of:
reducing the first portion of the payment funds that are sent to the vendor and increasing the second portion of the payment funds that are sent to the reserve fund,
reducing a scope of service of the internet-based procurement system, and
sending a supplemental payment from the state government agency to the reserve fund.

Claim 24 (New): The system of claim 9, wherein the computer further comprises executable instructions for:

when an input into the reserve fund exceeds an excess-funding threshold, sending a first portion of a corresponding surplus from the reserve fund to the services provider and sending a second portion of the corresponding surplus to the state government agency.

Claim 25 (New): The system of claim 9, wherein the computer further comprises executable instructions for:

when an input into the reserve fund falls below an insufficient-funding threshold, carrying out an insufficient-funding revision including at least one of:

reducing the first portion of the payment funds that are sent to the vendor and increasing the second portion of the payment funds that are sent to the reserve fund,

reducing a scope of service of the internet-based procurement system, and

sending a supplemental payment from the state government agency to the reserve fund.

Claim 26 (New): The system of claim 9, wherein the computer further comprises executable instructions for:

when an input into the reserve fund exceeds an excess-funding threshold, sending a first portion of a corresponding surplus from the reserve fund to the services provider and sending a second portion of the corresponding surplus to the state government agency; and

when an input into the reserve fund falls below an insufficient-funding threshold, carrying out an insufficient-funding revision including at least one of:

reducing the first portion of the payment funds that are sent to the vendor and increasing the second portion of the payment funds that are sent to the reserve fund,

reducing a scope of service of the internet-based procurement system, and

sending a supplemental payment from the state government agency to the reserve fund.

Claim 27 (New): The system of claim 10, wherein the server computer further comprises executable instructions for:

when an input into the reserve fund exceeds an excess-funding threshold, sending a first portion of a corresponding surplus from the reserve fund to the services provider and sending a second portion of the corresponding surplus to the state government agency.

Claim 28 (New): The system of claim 10, wherein the server computer further comprises executable instructions for:

when an input into the reserve fund falls below an insufficient-funding threshold, carrying out an insufficient-funding revision including at least one of:

reducing the first portion of the payment funds that are sent to the vendor and increasing the second portion of the payment funds that are sent to the reserve fund, reducing a scope of service of the internet-based procurement system, and sending a supplemental payment from the state government agency to the reserve fund.

Claim 29 (New): The system of claim 10, wherein the server computer further comprises executable instructions for:

when an input into the reserve fund exceeds an excess-funding threshold, sending a first portion of a corresponding surplus from the reserve fund to the services provider and sending a second portion of the corresponding surplus to the state government agency; and

when an input into the reserve fund falls below an insufficient-funding threshold, carrying out an insufficient-funding revision including at least one of:

reducing the first portion of the payment funds that are sent to the vendor and increasing the second portion of the payment funds that are sent to the reserve fund, reducing a scope of service of the internet-based procurement system, and sending a supplemental payment from the state government agency to the reserve fund.